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00865.004339.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
HIROKI NAKAYAMA ) Examiner: T. Thompson  
Application No.: 09/660,502 ) Group Art Unit: 2873  
Filed: September 12, 2000 )  
For: ZOOM LENS AND )  
PHOTOGRAPHING APPARATUS )  
HAVING THE SAME ) October 18, 2002

RECEIVED  
OCT 23 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully notes that the cited documents were cited during prosecution of a counterpart Japanese patent application corresponding to the above-referenced application. Abstracts for each of the Japanese documents were obtained from a commercial database and are also enclosed herewith.

Applicant respectfully submits that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 9-311273 shows, e.g., in Figs. 1 and 3 a zoom lens comprising a first lens unit

consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element, and a second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element.

Applicants respectfully submit that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-3037 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,978,154, and Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 4-304410 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,331,464.

Applicant respectfully submits that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 4-114115 shows, e.g., in Figs. 2 and 4 a zoom lens comprising a first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element, and a second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element.

Applicant respectfully submits that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 60-55311 shows, e.g., in Figs 1 and 4 a zoom lens which comprises a first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element, and a second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element.

Applicant respectfully submits that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Nos. 4-304410, 4-114115, and 60-55311 fail to disclose or suggest a camera comprising an image pickup element in combination with a parallel plate as recited, inter alia, in Claims 46 and 47.

FORMAL MATTER

Accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p). Any deficiency in or overpayment of this fee should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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